(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) proposal for setting up of a combined Cycle Project of 99 MW (2x33 MW (GT) x 1x33 MW (ST) at Narsapur Razole area in Andhra Pradesh has been cleared by CEA & Planning Commission. The APSEB have taken up the project for execution. Orders for equipment have been placed on BHEL. As per the present programme, the first unit is expected to be commissioned by May, 1989.

Setting up of gas based power plants

551. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large potential for setting up gas-based power plants in the country and that these plants are cheaper than the thermal and hydel power plants;

(b) what is the policy of Government for fully utilising gas to generate electricity during the next five years; and

(c) which are the States selected by Government for the setting up of gas-based power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The setting up of additional gas-based power projects as a short-term option for meeting the power demands will depend on the confirmation of availability of gas for power generation, following an assessment in this regard for various parts of the country over the Eighth and the Ninth Plan periods. The cost of production of electricity depends on various factors such as the type of plant, unit size, price and quality of fuel used, location of the power station in relation to the source of fuel supply and operating hours in a year.

Expenditure on the telecommunication equipments

552. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of expenditure on equipments allocated to Bombay and Delhi Mahanagar Telephone Nigams and Calcutta and Madras telephones districts in 1987-88 and in 1988-89 till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the metropolitan cities are being developed at the cost of the rest of the country; if not what is the percentage of allocation in terms of equipments and money to the four cities against the entire country; and

(c) whether Government would consider changing its priorities so that the rural areas can also develop in the field of communications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) Accounts of the year 1987-88 are yet to be closed in Department of Telecommunications as well as Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Required information will be collected and placed on the table of the House.

Manufacture of mobile telephones

553. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile telephones will be manufactured by a Private Sector company in Bombay; if so, what will be the estimated cost of the project and whether it is under collaboration with any foreign firm and what will be the extent of foreign investment;

(b) whether Government have approved the project and whether Mahanaga Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay ha assured the manufacturer to buy suc phones; and